

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A cutting block for resecting a bone comprising:

a body having a first generally planar bone contacting surface and a second surface spaced from said bone contacting surface along an first axis perpendicular to said generally planar bone contacting surface;

said body having a perimeter surface extending between said first and second surfaces, at least a medial and a lateral perimeter surface of the body curved along a plane parallel to the planar bone contacting surface and along a plane perpendicular to the bone contacting surface, wherein said body is to be used to resect a distal femur and includes a plurality of slots for guiding a saw blade, wherein at least one of the said slots includes two inwardly facing end surfaces extending from a bottom slot surface to a top slot surface at a location adjacent said perimeter surface of said body and wherein the inwardly facing end surfaces of said slot are curved surfaces, each curved surface having a central longitudinal axis extending in a direction from a top surface and a bottom surface of the body, parallel to the bone contacting surface which top and bottom surfaces connect ends of the medial and lateral perimeter surfaces and each inwardly facing curved surface has an arcuate portion extending toward a center of the top and bottom surfaces of said body located between the medial and lateral perimeter surfaces, the inwardly facing curved surface for engaging an edge of the saw blade.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The cutting block as set forth in claim 9 wherein said end surface is formed by a cylindrical pin.

12. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 11 wherein said perimeter surface is polished.

Claims 13-14 (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A cutting block for resecting a distal femur comprising:

a body having a width in a medial-lateral direction and height in an anterior-posterior direction and a proximally facing bone contacting surface and a distally facing surface opposite said proximal surface, said proximal and distal surfaces spaced along a central axis extending in an anterior-posterior direction, said body having a medial and lateral perimeters extending between said proximal and distal surfaces wherein at least part of each of said perimeters is at a greater distance from said central axis than said medial and lateral perimeter at said proximal and distal surfaces and wherein the body has a width less than or equal to the medial-lateral dimension of the femur throughout the height of the block and a height less than or equal to the anterior-posterior dimension of the femur throughout the width of the block wherein said body includes a plurality of slots for guiding a saw blade used to make an anterior cut, a posterior cut, an anterior chamfer cut and a posterior chamfer cut on the distal femur, wherein said slots for said anterior cuts include an inwardly facing end surface extending from a bottom slot surface to a top slot surface at a location adjacent said perimeter surface of said body, wherein said end surface has an arcuate portion extending towards the central axis~~a center~~ of said body for engaging an

edge of the saw blade, and wherein said end surface is formed by  
a cylindrical pin, the cylindrical pin having a longitudinal  
axis extending parallel to the central axis.

16. (previously presented) The cutting block as set forth  
in claim 15 wherein said medial and lateral perimeter surface is  
polished.

Claims 17 and 18 (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) The cutting block as set  
forth in claim 15 wherein said slots for said posterior and  
posterior chamfer cuts intersect said perimeter surface to form  
an open end.

20. (previously presented) The cutting block as set  
forth in claim 19 wherein the slot for the posterior cut further  
includes at least one pin extending from a bottom to a top  
surface of said slot, said pin adjacent a center of said slot  
and having a rounded outer surface for engaging the saw blade.

Claims 21-26 (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A cutting block for resecting bone  
comprising:

a body having a first generally planar bone contacting  
surface and a second surface spaced from said bone contacting  
surface along an axis perpendicular to said generally planar  
bone contacting surface;

said body having a perimeter surface extending between  
said first and second surfaces, said perimeter surface at least  
partially curved with respect to said axis in both a direction  
generally perpendicular thereto and generally parallel thereto,

wherein said body is to be used to resect a distal femur and includes a plurality of slots for guiding a saw blade, wherein at least one of said slots includes an inwardly facing end surface extending from a bottom slot surface to a top slot surface at a location adjacent said perimeter surface of said body, an end surface of said slot has an arcuate portion extending towards a center of said body for engaging an edge of the saw blade, and wherein said end surface is formed by a cylindrical pin having a longitudinal axis extending parallel to the generally planar bone contacting surface in an anterior-posterior direction.

Claim 28 (cancelled)

29 (new) A cutting block for resecting a distal femur comprising:

a body having a width in a medial-lateral direction and height in an anterior-posterior direction and a proximally facing bone contacting surface and a distally facing surface opposite said proximal surface, said proximal and distal surfaces spaced along a central axis, said body having a medial and lateral perimeters extending between said proximal and distal surfaces wherein at least part of each of said perimeters is at a greater distance from said central axis than said medial and lateral perimeter at said proximal and distal surfaces and wherein the body has a width less than or equal to the medial-lateral dimension of the femur throughout the height of the block and a height less than or equal to the anterior-posterior dimension of the femur throughout the width of the block wherein said body includes a plurality of slots for guiding a saw blade used to make an anterior cut, a posterior cut, an anterior chamfer cut and a posterior chamfer cut on the distal femur, wherein said slots for said anterior cuts include

an inwardly facing end surface extending from a bottom slot surface to a top slot surface at a location adjacent said perimeter surface of said body, wherein said end surface has an arcuate portion extending towards a center of said body for engaging an edge of the saw blade, and wherein said end surface is formed by a cylindrical pin wherein said slots for said posterior and posterior chamfer cuts intersect said perimeter surface to form an open end wherein the slot for the posterior cut further includes at least one pin extending from a bottom to a top surface of said slot, said pin adjacent a center of said slot and having a rounded outer surface for engaging the saw blade.